



2026 VINEYARD CUP REGATTA

HOSTED BY MARTHA'S VINEYARD SHIPYARD

To Benefit Sail Martha's Vineyard

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES:

- 1.1. The Vineyard Cup will be under the jurisdiction of Sail Martha's Vineyard and shall be governed by:
 - 1.1.1. The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 - 2028 ("RRS"); and
 - 1.1.2. For boats competing in the Classic Yachts Challenge Series, the Notice of Series will apply.
- 1.2 RRS 52 shall not apply. This changes RRS 52.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS:

- 2.1. All notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board which will be on the Vineyard Cup website (www.vineyardcup.com).
- 2.2. The Race Committee VHF Channel will be VHF Channel 73.
- 2.3. Each boat shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating with the Race Committee on VHF Channel 73.

3. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- 3.1. Any changes to these Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board not less than two hours prior to the first warning signal on the day the change is to take effect except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2100 hrs. on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE:

- 4.1. No signals will be made ashore. All advance alerts, including any postponements on-shore on the day of racing will be posted on the Official Notice Board and will be emailed to the registered email account for each competitor.

5. SCHEDULE:

5.1. Friday, July 10, 2026

0900 hrs. Captains' Meeting at Owen Park Gazebo, Owen Park, Main Street, Vineyard Haven

1200 hrs. starting sequence for all Classes (other than Catboats) will begin. Order of starts to be announced at Captains' Meeting.

5.2. Saturday, July 11, 2026

1030 hrs. **Pursuit Format Race:** Warning signal for first boat in all Classes (other than Catboats) will be at 1030 hrs.

1200 hrs. Warning signal for Catboat Division

1700 – 2000 hrs regatta party at the [Sail MV Boathouse](#) with food and refreshments. A \$35 donation per person is suggested and may be paid at the event. *If the second day of racing is completed on Saturday, the award ceremony will take place during the regatta party.*

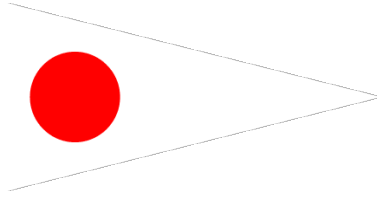
5.3. Sunday, July 12, 2026

Reserve date to be used if racing is cancelled on either Friday or Saturday. *If the second day of racing is completed on the Sunday, July 12, 2026 reserve day, the award ceremony will take place at 1700 hrs at the Stead Family home ~ [73 William Street, Vineyard Haven, MA.](#)*

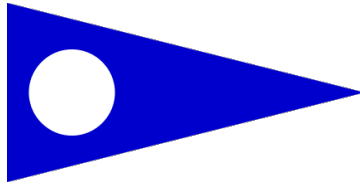
6. CLASSES:

- 6.1. Boats will be divided into the following Divisions and Classes and designated by the numeral pennant indicated:

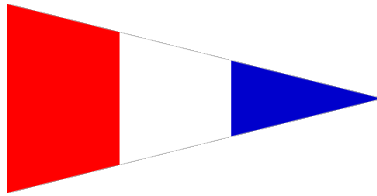
6.1.1. CLASS 1 – PHRF Non-Spinnaker



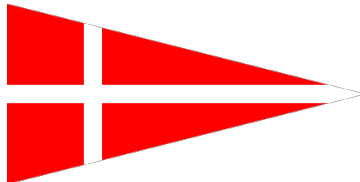
6.1.2. CLASS 2 – PHRF Spinnaker



6.1.3. CLASS 3 – CRF - Vintage



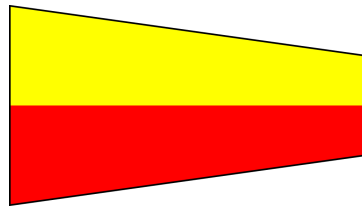
6.1.4 CLASS 4 – CRF – Schooner



6.1.5 Class 5 – CRF – Spirit of Tradition

6.1.6 Class 6 – CRF – Modern Classic

6.1.7 Class 7 – Catboat Division



6.2. The decision as to what Class a boat races under rests solely with the Race Committee.

7. **STARTING AREA:**

7.1. The starting line for all Classes will be positioned approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ nm (at a bearing of 65° M) from Fl G "7" at the end of the Eastville jetty.

8. **RACING AREA:**

8.1. The racing area for all Classes (other than Catboats) will be in Vineyard Sound and/or Nantucket Sound.

8.2. The racing area for the Catboat Division will be in the vicinity of Vineyard Haven Harbor.

9. **MARKS:**

9.1. All marks for all Classes and the Catboat Division shall be government marks with the following exceptions:

- The Race Committee Boat; and
- The pin end of the starting and finishing lines which will be a large yellow and black inflatable sphere

10. **COURSES:**

10.1 Courses for all Classes (other than Catboats) will be:

COURSE #1 THE DASH

(approximately 5.5 nm)

Start, then through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to G"23" (leave to port) to RG N (leave to port) through N"4" - C"23A" gate to Finish.

COURSE # 2 THE DASH PLUS

(approximately 8.0 nm)

Start, then through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to G"23" (leave to port) to G"15" (leave to port) through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to Finish.

COURSE #3 HEDGE FENCE COURSE

(approximately 10.2 nm)

Start, then through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to G"23" (leave to starboard) to R"22" (leave to starboard) to GR Bell (leave to starboard) to G"23" (leave to port) through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to Finish.

COURSE #4 L'HOMMEDIU SHOAL COURSE

(approximately 11.1 nm)

Start, then through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to G"25" (leave to port) to R"26" (leave to starboard) to G"15" at the western end of L'Hommedieu Shoal (leave to starboard) to RG N at the west end of Hedge Fence (leave to starboard) through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to Finish.

COURSE # 5 NORTH CHANNEL COURSE

(approximately 11.3 nm)

Start, then through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to N"14" (leave to starboard) to G"23" (leave to starboard) to R"2" (leave to port) through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to Finish.

COURSE # 6 VINEYARD SOUND COURSE SHORT

(approximately 12.3 nm)

Start, then through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to G"25" (leave to port) to R"26" (leave to port) to G"27" (leave to port) to G"25" (leave to starboard) through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to Finish.

COURSE #7 AROUND HEDGE FENCE COURSE

(approximately 14.8 nm)

Start, then through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to RG N (leave to starboard) to G"11" (leave to starboard) to R"22" (leave to starboard) to GR Bell (leave to starboard) to G"23" (leave to port) through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to Finish.

COURSE # 8 LUCAS SHOAL COURSE

(approximately 23.6 nm)

Start through the N"4" - C"23A" gate to R"2" (leave to port) to G"25"

(leave to port) to G"27 (leave to port) to G"29" at west end of Lucas Shoal (leave to port) to G"25" (leave to starboard) to R"2" (leave to starboard) through the N"4" – C"23A" gate to Finish.

COURSE # 9 VINEYARD SOUND COURSE LONG
(approximately 22.0 nm)

Start, then through the N"4" – C"23A" gate to G"25" (leave to port) to R"26" (leave to port) to G"27" (leave to port) to G"25" (leave to port) to R"26" (leave to port) to G"27" (leave to port) to G"25" (leave to starboard) through the N"4" – C"23A" gate to Finish.

COURSE #10 SQUASH MEADOW COURSE
(approximately 10.4 nm)

Start, then through the N"4" – C"23A" gate to GR Bell (east end of Squash Meadow)(leave to Starboard) to R"2" Bell (off Edgartown Harbor)(leave to Starboard) to G"23" Bell and C"23A" (off East Chop)(leave to Port), through the N"4" – C"23A" gate to Finish.

COURSE #11 FALMOUTH COURSE
(approximately 10.3 nm)

Start, then through the N"4" – C"23A" gate to RG N (leave to Port) to C"15" (west end of L'Hommedieu Shoal)(leave to Starboard), to R"2" (off Waquoit)(leave to Port), to C"15" (leave to Port), to RG N (leave to Starboard) through the N"4" – C"23A" gate to Finish.

COURSE #12 VINEYARD SOUND COURSE MEDIUM
(approximately 14.8 nm)

Start, then through the N"4" – C"23A" gate to C"15" (leave to Port), to G"27" (leave to Port), to C"25" (leave to Starboard), through the N"4" – C"23A" gate to Finish.

COURSE #13 HEDGE FENCE COURSE LONG
(approximately 16.5 nm)

Start, then through the N"4" – C"23A" gate to RG N (leave to Starboard), to C"11" (at the east end of L'Hommedieu Shoal)(leave to Starboard), to R"2" (off of Edgartown)(leave to Starboard), to G"23" (leave to Port), through the N"4" – C"23A" gate to Finish.

- *The course for each of Class and the Catboat Division will be designated by the appropriate number displayed on a white board on the starboard side of the Race Committee Boat. If a course designation is followed by "R", the course is to be sailed in the opposite order as described above and marks are to be left on the opposite side.*
- *Different courses may be designated for different Classes.*
- **ALL BOATS IN ALL CLASSES AND THE CATBOAT DIVISION SHOULD TREAT N"4" AND C"23A" AS A GATE AND SHALL PASS**

BETWEEN THEM OUTBOUND FROM THE START LINE AND INBOUND TO THE FINISH LINE. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS REQUIREMENT.

10.2 Courses for the Catboat Division will be Course #1 or Course #2 as specified in 10.1 above.

11. THE START:

- 11.1. For all Classes and the Catboat Division all races (except the Pursuit Format Race) will be started by using the RRS 26 format with the warning signal given **five minutes** before the starting signal.
- 11.2. For all Classes (other than Catboats) the Pursuit Format Race will be started by using the RRS 26 format with the warning signal given **five minutes** before the starting signal for the first boat to start the Pursuit Format Race. Code flag #1 (white triangle with red circle) will be used as the Class Flag for the Pursuit Format Race. Each boat shall start the Pursuit Format Race at its designated time using GPS time. As a courtesy, the Race Committee will make an effort to announce the start for each boat on VHF Channel 73, however, GPS time shall be the control for each boat.
- 11.3. For all Classes and the Catboat Division, the starting line shall be between an orange flag on the Race Committee Boat at the starboard end of the starting line and large yellow and black inflatable sphere at the pin end of the line.
- 11.4. For the Pursuit Format Race (expected to occur on Saturday, July 11th), each boat will be assigned a specific starting time. The starting times for possible courses to be determined by the Race Committee will be posted on the Official Notice Board by 2100 hrs., Friday, July 10th.
- 11.5. The intended order of starts on Friday, July 10th will be announced at the Captain' Meeting. Classes may be combined for the start. If Classes will be combined the Race Committee will announce it in advance of the warning signal on VHF Channel 73 and will fly the relevant Class flags simultaneously at the Warning signal.
- 11.6. Boats whose Class Warning signal has not been made shall remain well clear of the starting area.
- 11.7. The Race Committee may deploy a small orange inflatable spherical buoy at a distance of eight to ten feet from the transom of the Committee Boat, the purpose of which will be to keep starting boats well clear of the Committee Boat. Such buoy and its painter, if deployed, will be deemed to be an extension of the Race Committee Boat.

12. CHANGING THE COURSE AFTER THE START:

- 12.1. A change of course after the start will be signaled at the rounding mark before the leading boat has begun the new leg.

13. THE FINISH:

- 13.1. For all Classes and the Catboat Division, the finish area will be positioned approximately ¼ nm (at a bearing of 65° M) from Fl G “7” at the end of the Eastville jetty.
- 13.2. For all Classes and the Catboat Division the finishing line shall be between a blue or orange flag on the Race Committee Boat at the port end of the finish line and a large yellow and black inflatable sphere at the starboard end of the line. This changes RRS Other Signals.
- 13.4 Upon finishing, boats in the Catboat Division shall pass astern of the Race Committee Boat on port tack stating the boat’s name.
- 13.5 The Race Committee Boat at the finish may be a different boat than at the start.

14. TIME LIMIT:

- 14.1. The time limit for the first boat to finish in each Class (other than Catboats) on Friday, July 10th will be four hours.
- 14.2 The time limit for the first boat to finish in the Catboat Division on Saturday, July 11th will be four hours.
- 14.4. A boat failing to finish within two hours of the first boat to finish in its Class will be scored DNF without a hearing. This changes RRS 35.
- 14.5. For the Pursuit Format Race, each boat in each Class must complete the course by 1600 hrs. or will be scored DNF without a hearing. This changes RRS 35.

15. PROTESTS:

- 15.1. A boat intending to lodge a protest shall comply with all provisions of RRS 60 and shall notify the Race Committee immediately upon finishing of that intent, providing to the Race Committee the name, sail number (if shown on the sail) and Class of the boat being protested. This changes RRS 60.2(a)(1).
- 15.2. Protests shall be filed in writing with the Protest Committee at Race Headquarters on forms available from the Race Committee desk within one hour of the last boat to finish for the day, such time to be posted on the Official Notice Board.
- 15.3. Protests will be heard in the order posted, beginning as soon as possible after the completion of the day’s races.

16. PENALTY SYSTEM:

- 16.1 The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3 will apply. The scoring penalty will be 20% of the number of boats in the relevant Class that start the race.

17. SCORING:

- 17.1. One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 17.2. Boats will be scored under RRS 90.3 (a) and Appendix A using PHRF-NE ratings in the case of boats in the PHRF Division or CRF ratings in the case of boats in the CRF Division. The Catboat Division will be scored under Appendix A without any handicap.

17.3. There will be no excluded scores, this changes Appendix A2.1

18. SAFETY:

- 18.1. Each day, every yacht shall check in with the Race Committee at the starting area by passing astern of the Race Committee Boat on starboard tack, stating the boat's name, class and sail number. The Race Committee will acknowledge by responding with the boat's name.
Check-ins will not be accepted via VHF.
- 18.2. Any yacht withdrawing from a race SHALL report her withdrawal to the Race Committee on VHF Channel 73 as soon as practicable after her decision to abandon the race AND by calling **312.524.7366** upon returning to shore.

19. SUSTAINABILITY:

The Vineyard Cup Regatta is committed to maintaining and improving the water quality in Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds. PLEASE follow the guidelines below. We're counting on you!

ON BOARD

- 19.1 No discharge of treated or untreated sewage or black water.
19.2 No overboard discharge of trash (e.g., rigging tape, cigarette butts, cans, bottles or compostables). That means nothing goes overboard during the Vineyard Cup.
19.3 Recycle and re-use materials when possible.
19.4 We expect that you will make every effort to eliminate the use of anything plastic.
19.5 Use green cleaning and maintenance products.
19.6 No bottom cleaning in the harbor.
19.7 Reduce the impact of oil spills from motorized vessels by carrying at least one bilge sponge and fuel spill pad.

20. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:

Each owner, skipper and individual participating crewmember ("Person") agrees to be bound by the Rules. Furthermore, each Person agrees that the sole responsibility for the seaworthiness of the boat, her rigging, the safety equipment on board, the wearing of PFD's and the competence and behavior of her crew is that of the Owner/Charterer/Skipper of the boat.

Each Person participates in the regatta entirely at his/her own risk and represents that he/she is acquainted with RRS 3 which states, "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue *racing* is hers alone." Sail Martha's Vineyard will not accept any liability for damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

Each participant also agrees that by participating in the regatta, to the fullest extent permitted by law, each participant waives any rights such participant may have to sue the race organizers (Sail Martha's Vineyard, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, race committee, protest committee, sponsors or any other organization or official) involved with the event with respect to personal injury or property damage suffered by such participant as a result of such participant's participation in the event and expressly releases the race organizers from any liability for such injury or damage.

21. MEDIA RELEASE:

Competitors and crewmembers on competing boats grant, at no cost, Sail Martha's Vineyard the absolute right and permission to use their name, voice, image, likeness, biographical material; as well as representations of the boats in any media (including but not limited to television, print and internet media), including video footage, for the sole purpose of advertising, promoting and disseminating information regarding the Vineyard Cup and Sail Martha's Vineyard and its programs.